www.wipo.int, the year-wise number of PCT filings by India as country of origin from 2004 to 2008 is as under:

| Year | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of applications | 724 | 679 | 833 | 901 | 690 |

*Data is provisional.

(c) The PCT administered by WIPO is a mechanism which makes it possible to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in a large number of countries by filing a single [international application] with a single patent office. Patents are granted by national patent offices. The published PCT monthly statistics does not contain data on granted patents.

**Proposal to set up National Science and Research Foundation**

381. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up National Science and Research Foundation (NSRF) of international standard in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up NSRF in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government has instituted a 'Science and Engineering Research Board' (SERB) of international standard in the country. The powers and functions of SERB include: serving as a premier multi-disciplinary research agency for planning, promoting and funding of internationally competitive research in emerging areas; identifying major inter-disciplinary research areas, and individuals, groups or institutions and funding them for undertaking research; evolving nationally coordinated programmes in various identified areas; involving institutions that will have a multiplier effect in promoting research; assisting in setting up infrastructure and environment for scientific pursuit; achieving synergy between academic institutions, research and development laboratories and industry for promoting basic research in science and engineering; evolving a management system to speedily provide for funding research, including monitoring and evaluation, by adopting modern management practices; and evolving participation a in international collaborative projects, wherever necessary or desirable. The Head Office of the Board shall be at Delhi or in the National Capital Region.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Government will ensure the enhanced participation of States including Madhya Pradesh in building up the research programmes under the newly instituted SERB.